The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 is being administered and implemented by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, cases of child marriage in some States have come to the notice of the Government. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 has been amended in 1978. As per the amended Act, the minimum age for marriage was fixed at 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls and offences under the Act were made cognizable. The National Commission for Women has recommended certain amendments to the Act to the Department of Women and Child Development with a view to making the provisions for punishment more stringent. The recommendations have been sent by that Department to the Ministry of Law who have circulated these to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for obtaining their comments.

Condition of teenaged girls in slums

566. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Study finds Delhi slums teeming with child mother", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 24th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the conditions of teenaged girls in slums of other metropolitan cities and steps taken to address the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of NCT of Delhi is organizing Stree Shakti Camps, a capacity building project for women empowerment through "Bhagidari" alongwith various Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). These camps focus on and cover health and awareness, literacy and income generation etc. for women in the age group of 15-45 years living in slums. The Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme of the Government of India also covers some of these areas. However, no specific programme, as such, is being implemented for child mothers in slums.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing a scheme titled "The Adolescent Girls (AG) Scheme" which was revised last year and renamed as Kishori Shakti Yojna (KSY) with a training component, particularly on the vocational aspects, aimed at empowerment and enhanced self perception and convergence with other programmes of similar nature in the education, rural development, employment and health sectors. The objectives of the revised scheme are to improve nutritional and health status of girls in the age group of 11—18 years, to provide the required literacy and numeracy skills through the non-formal stream of education, to stimulate a desire for more social exposure and knowledge and to help them improve their decision making capabilities, to train and equip the adolescent girls to improve/upgrade home-based and vocational skills, to promote awareness of health, hygiene, nutrition and family welfare, home management and child care, and to take all measures as to facilitate their marrying only after attaining the minimum age of 18 years. At present, the scheme is being implemented in the metropolitan city of Delhi only.

Tribal population in Andhra Pradesh

567. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total population and total number of households of tribals in Andhra Pradesh as per latest Census;

(b) the number of tribal families living below the poverty line in the State; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for these poor tribal families of the State to improve their standard of living?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) As per as 1991 Census, the total population of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Andhra Pradesh was 41,99,481 and the number of households of tribals in the State were 8,88,147.

(b) As per the poverty estimates for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes made by the Planning Commission (1993-94), 25.66% of Scheduled Tribes population in rural areas and 46.68% of ST population in urban areas lived below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh.